



Ruth and Oral Eskelson's 30-foot wall of ice is colored and spotlighted. It is supported by two old power poles.

Am.F. couple creates a monster of an icicle

By Carol Jensen
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AMERICAN FORK — The winter wonderland at the Eskelson home, 1075 E. Main, is attracting busloads of viewers this year.

Ruth and Oral Eskelson have been creating an ice cascade for about 22 years.

Called by some the big icicle, the 30-foot-tall and 30-foot-wide wall of ice is colored and spotlighted to create an even more beautiful sight.

Mrs. Eskelson said buses of senior citizens have passed by on several occasions this year, along with hundreds of others.

"When we first put it up this year, you would have thought there was a road block. There's still quite a parade. People really enjoy it."

Mrs. Eskelson said the passers-by are not American Fork residents only.

"Friends and relatives visiting in town from all over the country come. Their hosts tell them the ice castle's a must to see."

The first comment of any visitor is usually, "Oh, how beautiful." The next comment is, "How did you do it?"

Then there are the unusual remarks. One fellow asked if he could climb the ice sculpture, while another said the colors didn't harmonize.

One young man from Alaska took notes on how to create it so he could make one when he got home.

The whole idea started out as a mishap — a leaky hose sprayed mist onto a rosebush, creating a frozen natural wonder.

Oral said a similar sculpture created intentionally might look pretty on a bigger scale.

So the Eskelsons started piling brush between two elm trees and leaving the hose on during freezing nights.

"At first, we had a low wall with two high points at the ends where the trees were," Mrs. Eskelson said. "We decided if we used our imagination, the ends were towers and the whole thing was a castle."

Eskelson began mixing cake coloring and water in a cup and tossing it onto the sculpture.

"The colors blend and it looks just gorgeous," Mrs. Eskelson said.

Then this year, Utah Power & Light Co. let the Eskelsons have two used power poles.

"They trimmed them so the poles were manageable, leaving them as long as possible," she said. "These are placed at the end of the framework and allow the castle to be taller than it ever has been."

Fencing, cables and brush make the rest of the framework, and then it's up to Mother Nature.

When it gets cold enough, Eskelson turns on the hose.

"We started the castle once this year, but then we had 40-degree weather," Mrs. Eskelson said. "In a day or two it was gone. But when it got cold again in December, we built it up again in three or four nights, and it was up for Christmas."

Eskelson said the colors are bright this year because very little melting has occurred.

He has been using a squirt gun to get the color to the top, since he is getting older and can no longer toss the colored water that far.

Also because of his age, Eskelson has been leaving their framework up year round.

"We weren't going to do it any more, but the neighbors said it was a tradition and we had to keep it up. So we made it again. But during the summer, the framework is a real crow's nest," Mrs. Eskelson said.

Last year, she planted morning glories to make a wall of blue. Except for one stalk, they did not grow, but Eskelson's squash was quite prolific.

With luck, the Eskelsons will have a summer attraction next year, as well as a winter one.



Eskelson has been creating the ice cascade in his yard for 22 years.

2nd half, lose 85-84 to Lady Buffs



PHOTOGRAPHY/ GARY MCKELLAR

the ball against a Colorado player. Zapata's shooting gave the Cougars an edge in first half.

ank both shots to put the Buffs up by three, 85-82, with 17 seconds left. The Cougars managed one more layup, for

what it was worth, amid a mad scramble at their end. "We had a great game last time, but

we can't just think we can come out and model the uniforms," Leishman said. "We didn't even make a layup

the first five minutes, and that's the whole ball game right there."

Was that actually Spaulding out there, missing three layups in the opening minutes?

By the time the Cougars overcame the initial cold spell, nearly six minutes had elapsed. But once they calmed down, the shots began to fall.

BYU built up a six-point lead midway through the first half, by moving the ball to the base line and then throwing it inside to Spaulding for the easy layup. Spaulding hit 10 points within a two-minute period on that play alone.

With just four minutes left in the half, Stephanie Dorman sank a pair of free throws to give the Cougars their biggest lead of the game at 37-27. Colorado managed to chip away at the margin, but the Cougars still led by five at the half.

Colorado came out fired up and took over the inside game, making easy layups around the flat-footed Cougars. The Lady Buffs also took control of the boards, out-rebounding the Cougars 28-13 in the second half.

Several times the Buffs took three or four shots in one possession with their offensive rebounding.

Now 5-7 on the season, the Cougars will have a couple of weeks off before facing No. 1 Texas in Provo on Jan. 24. Asked what he intends to work on during the break, Leishman answered, "Everything."

"I know it's a ridiculous answer," he said. "But everything. I just can't believe we shot the free throws and got outrebounded the way we did."

BYU came away with 67 percent shooting from the line and 38 rebounds, compared to Colorado's 71 percent and 50 rebounds.

Spaulding finished with 24 points, Cathy Nixon hit for 20, and Tanise McIntire and Zapata each scored 11. On Colorado's side, four players also hit in double figures, including Erin Carson, who had 36.

win, but men lose

Unlike previous meeting, Vikings run away with win over Wolverines

Deseret News special

REXBURG, Idaho — In December's meeting between the Utah Technical College and Ricks College basketball teams, the Wolverines scored the final 12 points of the contest to escape with a two-point win.

But Wednesday night in Idaho, even 12 points wouldn't have been enough

Dinos hope control game will offset lack of height

By Paul Farmer
Deseret News correspondent

PRICE — A young and short Carbon Dino basketball team is taking to the courts in Region 8 this season.

Four juniors joined 6-foot-2-inch senior forward Ron Cunningham in the Carbon starting lineup. Unfortunately, Mike Miller is the only one with any real size at 6-4.

The Dinos will also try pressing "the whole game just about every game," Stewart said. The type of press employed — zone trap or man-to-man — will depend on what type of team Carbon plays.

Carbon wound up its preseason at 1-5, winning its last game 72-50 over Alamosa, Colo., in a tournament at Grand Junction, Colo. The Dinos opened their season at a tournament